

Serial No.: 10/821,676
Amendment Dated: July 27, 2005
In Response to Office Action dated April 13, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 – 34 (canceled)

35. (currently amended) A method of replacing material covering a feed roller of a tufting machine, comprising:
 - removing a feed roller having an outer covering from a tufting machine;
 - removing the outer covering from the feed roller; and
 - applying a vulcanized covering on the feed roller by winding a plurality of layers of a covering material about the feed roller.
36. (canceled)
37. (currently amended) The method of Claim 36 35, wherein the vulcanized covering is applied by heating the polymer to vulcanize the plurality of layers together onto the feed roller.
38. (original) The method of Claim 35, wherein the vulcanized covering is polyurethane.
39. (currently amended) A feed roller adapted for use in a tufting machine, the feed roller is driven by the tufting machine to control the feeding speed of strands of yarn and comprising a feed roller having a contact patch adapted to engage a plurality of strands of yarn, wherein the contact patch comprises a plurality of layers of a vulcanized material wound around the feed roller.

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40. (original) The feed roller of Claim 39, wherein the vulcanized material is polyurethane.
41. (original) The feed roller of Claim 39, wherein the contact patch is generally smooth.
42. (currently amended) A method of covering a feed roller of a tufting machine comprising a feed roller having a contact region configured to engage a plurality of strands of yarn, the method comprising applying a polymer covering in a plurality of layers to the contact region patch of the feed roller, vulcanizing the polymer covering.
43. (canceled)
44. (currently amended) The method of Claim 43 42, wherein the polymer covering comprises polyurethane and the plurality of layers of polyurethane are vulcanized to the feed roller.
45. (original) The method of Claim 42, further comprising removing the feed roller from a tufting machine and removing an outer covering from the contact patch of feed roller before applying the polymer covering to the contact patch of the feed roller.
46. (original) The method of Claim 42, further comprising grinding the vulcanized polymer covering to provide a more uniform outer surface of the feed roller.
47. (original) A method of applying a covering to a feed roller of a tufting machine, the feed roller driven by an actuator of the tufting machine so as to control feeding of a plurality of strands of yarn, the method comprising:
applying a first material to an outer surface of the feed roller; and
heating the first material on the feed roller.
48. (original) The method of Claim 47, wherein heating comprises melting the material.

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49. (original) The method of Claim 47, wherein heating comprises vulcanizing the first material.
50. (original) The method of Claim 47, wherein applying a first material comprises applying a plurality of layers of the first material to the outer surface of the feed roller.
51. (original) The method of Claim 50, wherein heating comprises melting the plurality of layers.